

# Epigenetics and DNase-Seq

BMI/CS 776

[www.biostat.wisc.edu/bmi776/](http://www.biostat.wisc.edu/bmi776/)

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# Goals for lecture

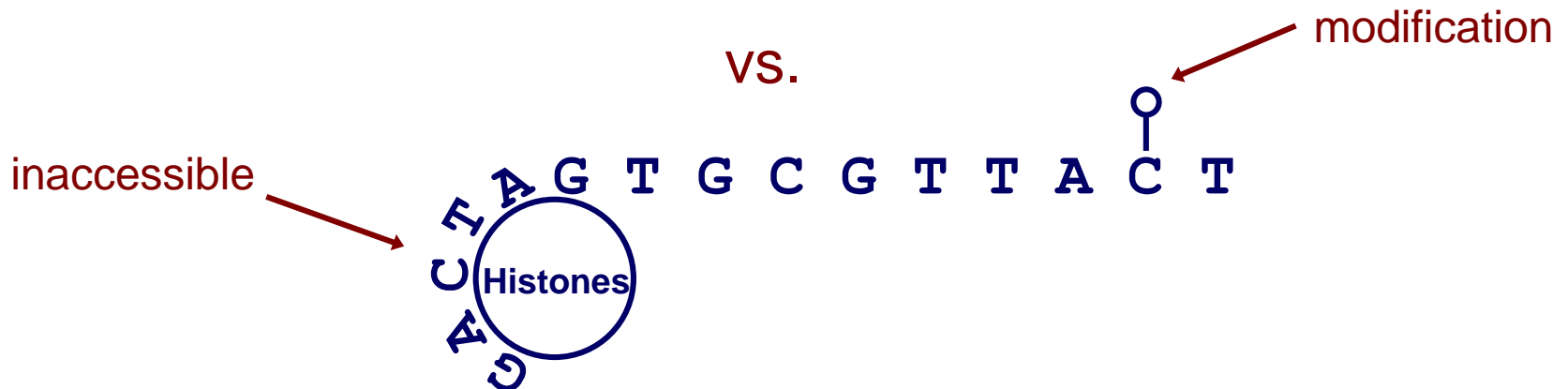
## Key concepts

- Importance of epigenetic data for understanding transcriptional regulation
- Predicting transcription factor binding sites
- Gaussian Process models

# Introduction to epigenetics

# Defining epigenetics

- Formally: attributes that are “in addition to” genetic sequence or sequence modifications
- Informally: experiments that reveal the context of DNA sequence
  - DNA has multiple states and modifications



# Importance of epigenetics

Better understand

- DNA binding and transcriptional regulation
- Differences between cell and tissue types
- Development and other important processes
- Non-coding genetic variants (next lecture)

# PWMs are not enough

- Genome-wide motif scanning is imprecise
- Transcription factors (TFs) bind  $< 5\%$  of their motif matches
- Same motif matches in all cells and conditions

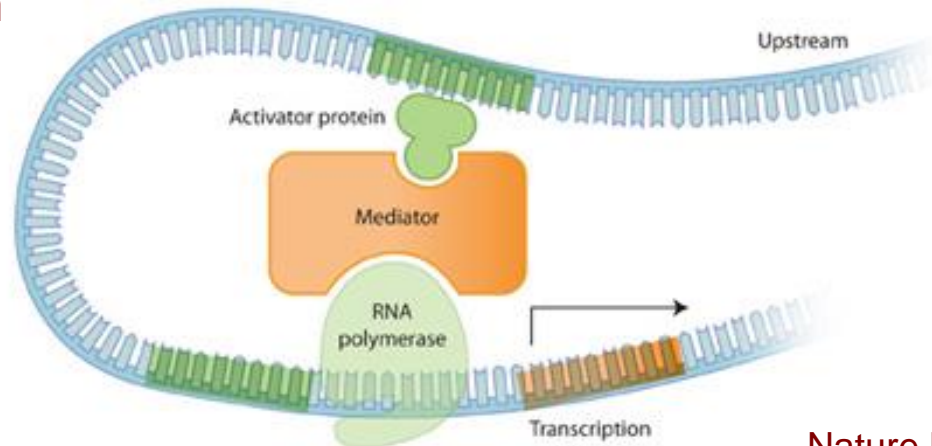
# PWMs are not enough

- DNA looping can bring distant binding sites close to transcription start sites
- Which genes does an enhancer regulate?



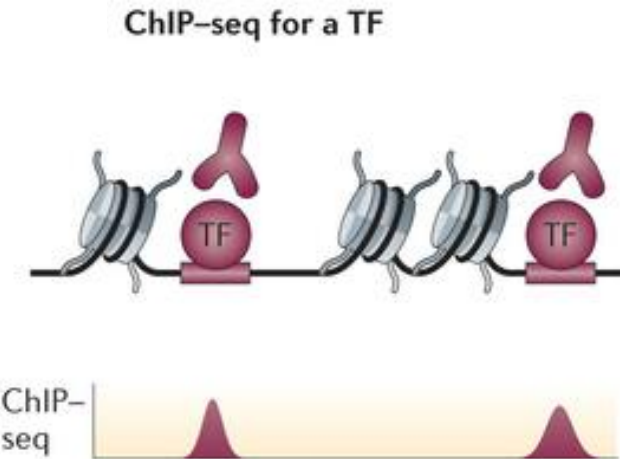
Enhancer: DNA binding site for TFs, can be far from affected gene

Promoter: DNA binding site for TFs, close to gene transcription start site

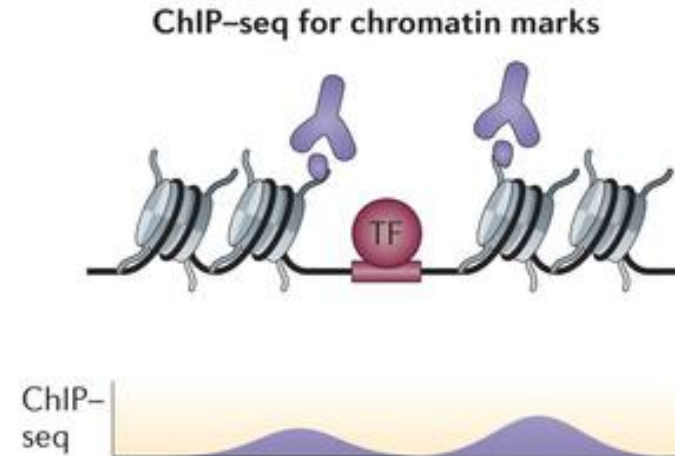
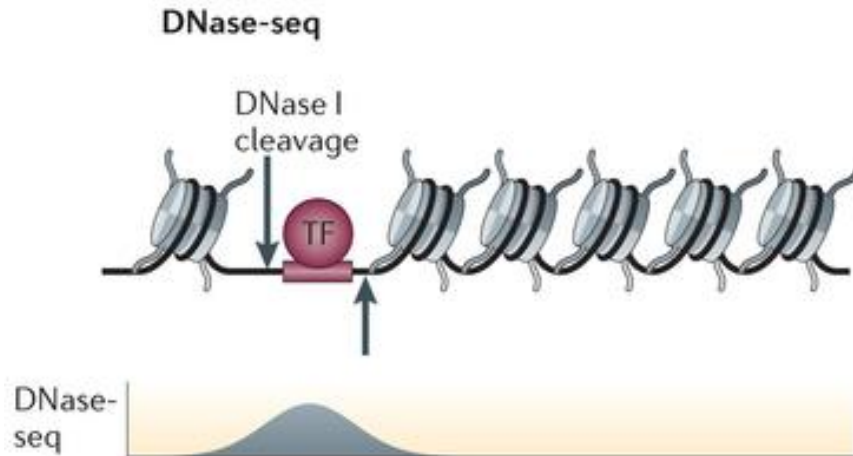


# Mapping regulatory elements genome-wide

- Can do much better than motif scanning with additional data
- ChIP-seq measures binding sites for one TF at a time
- Epigenetic data suggests where *some* TF binds



Shlyueva *Nature Reviews Genetics* 2014

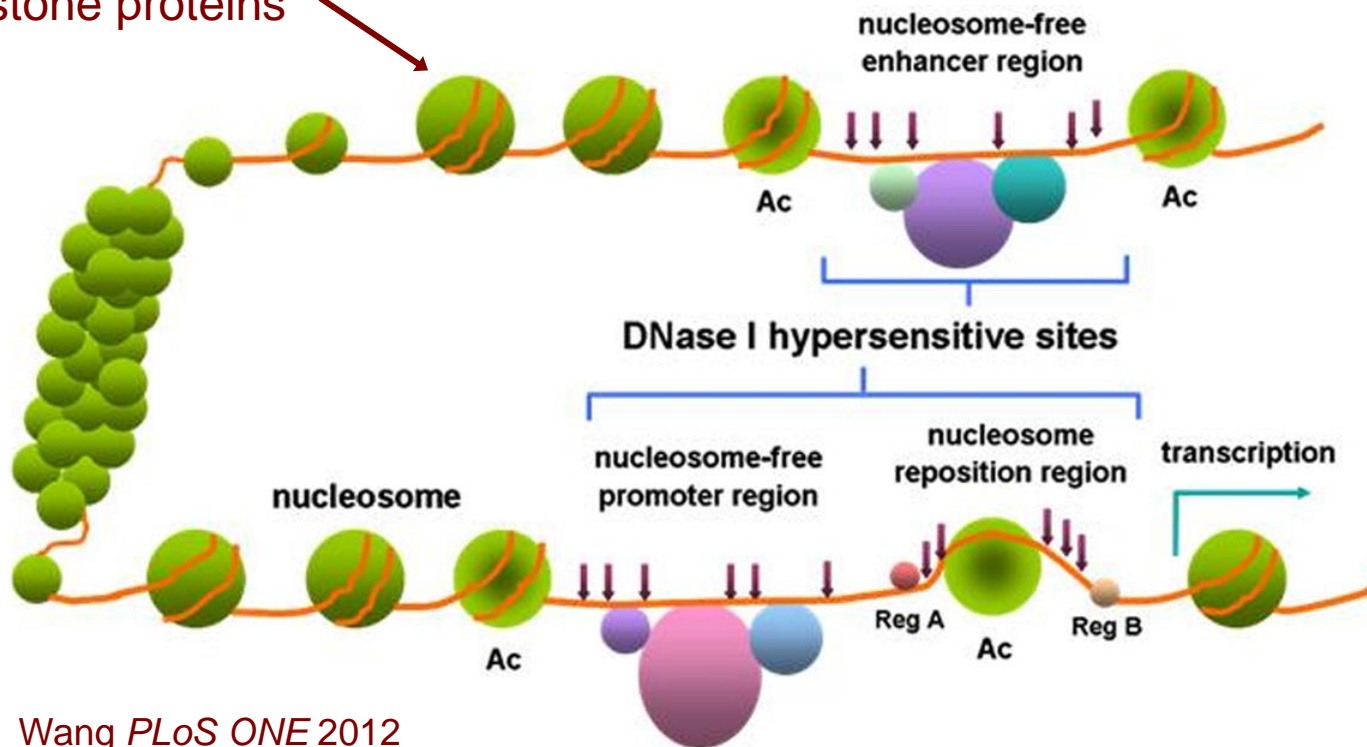




# DNase I hypersensitivity

- Regulatory proteins bind accessible DNA
- DNase I enzyme cuts open chromatin regions that are not protected by nucleosomes

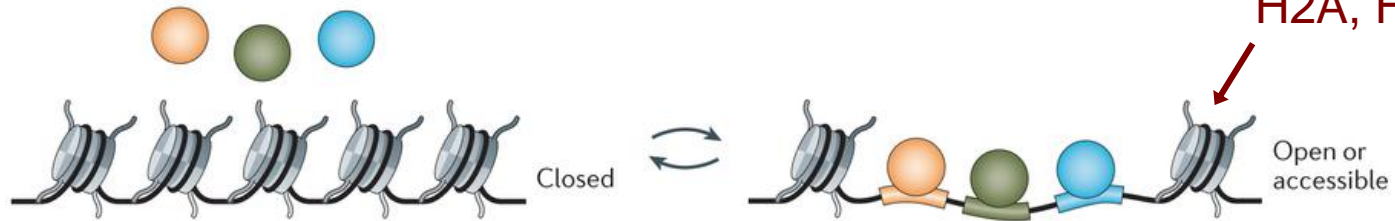
Nucleosome: DNA wrapped around histone proteins



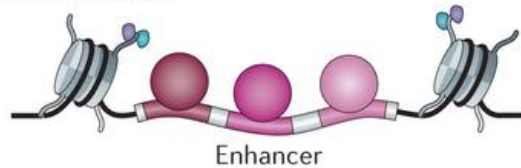
# Histone modifications

- Mark particular regulatory configurations

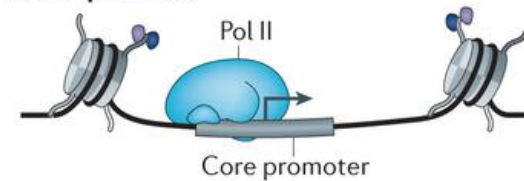
Chromatin as accessibility barrier



Active enhancer



Active promoter



Shlyueva *Nature Reviews Genetics* 2014



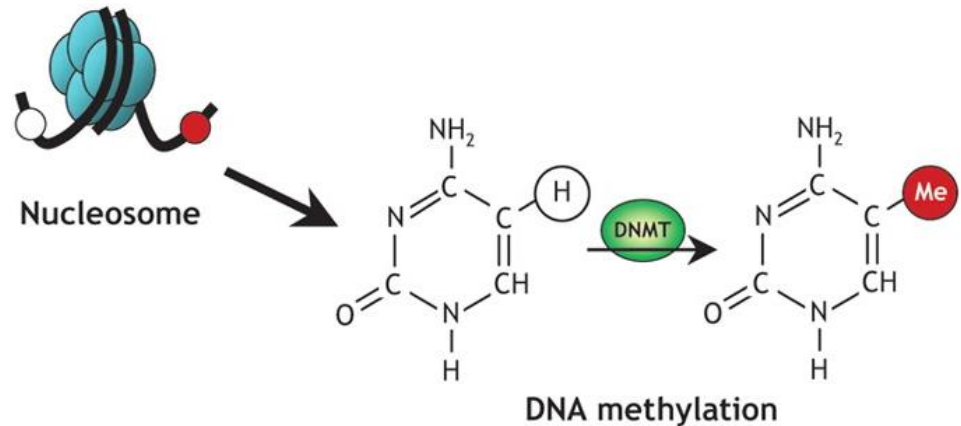
- H3 (protein) K27 (amino acid) ac (modification)



Latham *Nature Structural & Molecular Biology* 2007; Katie Ris-Vicari

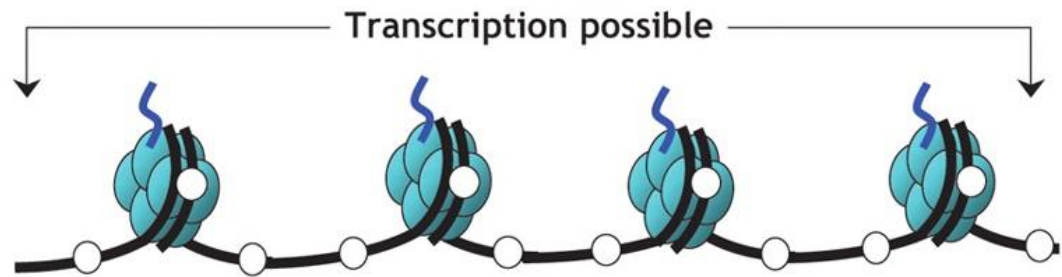
# DNA methylation

- Reversible DNA modification
- Represses gene expression



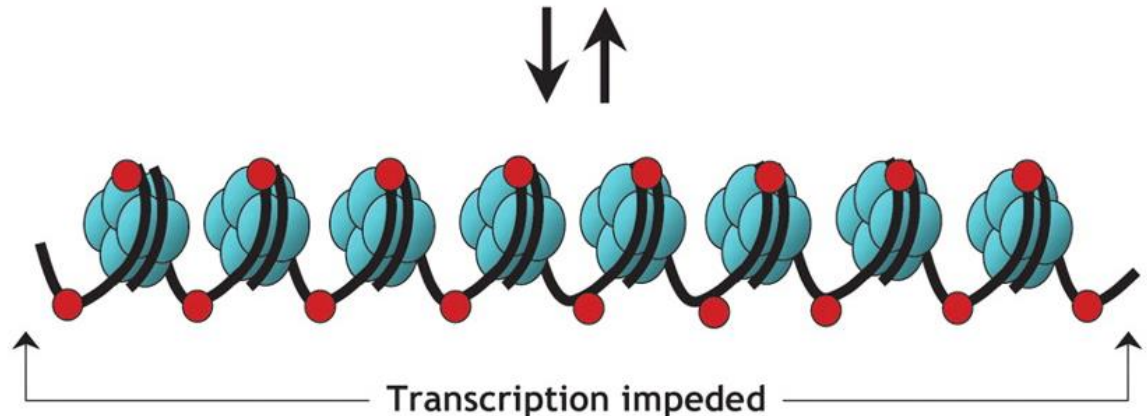
## Gene “switched on”

- Active (open) chromatin
- Unmethylated cytosines (white circles)
- Acetylated histones



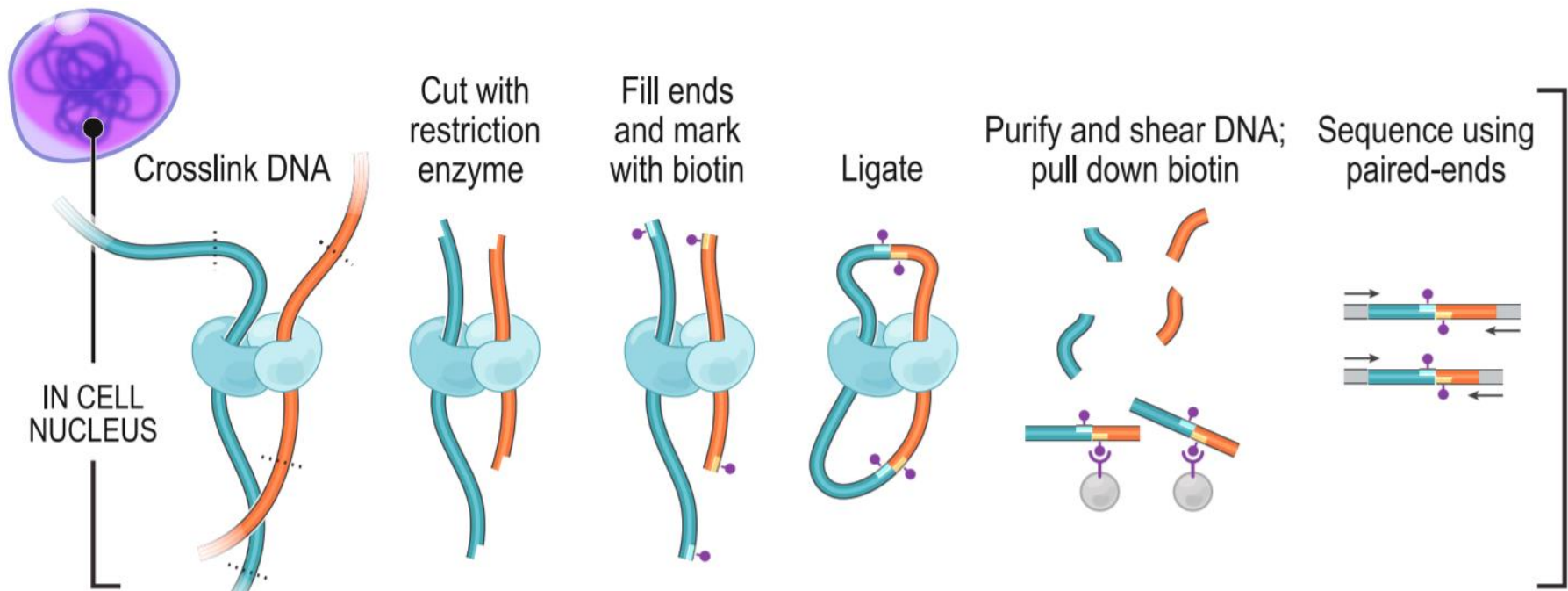
## Gene “switched off”

- Silent (condensed) chromatin
- Methylated cytosines (red circles)
- Deacetylated histones



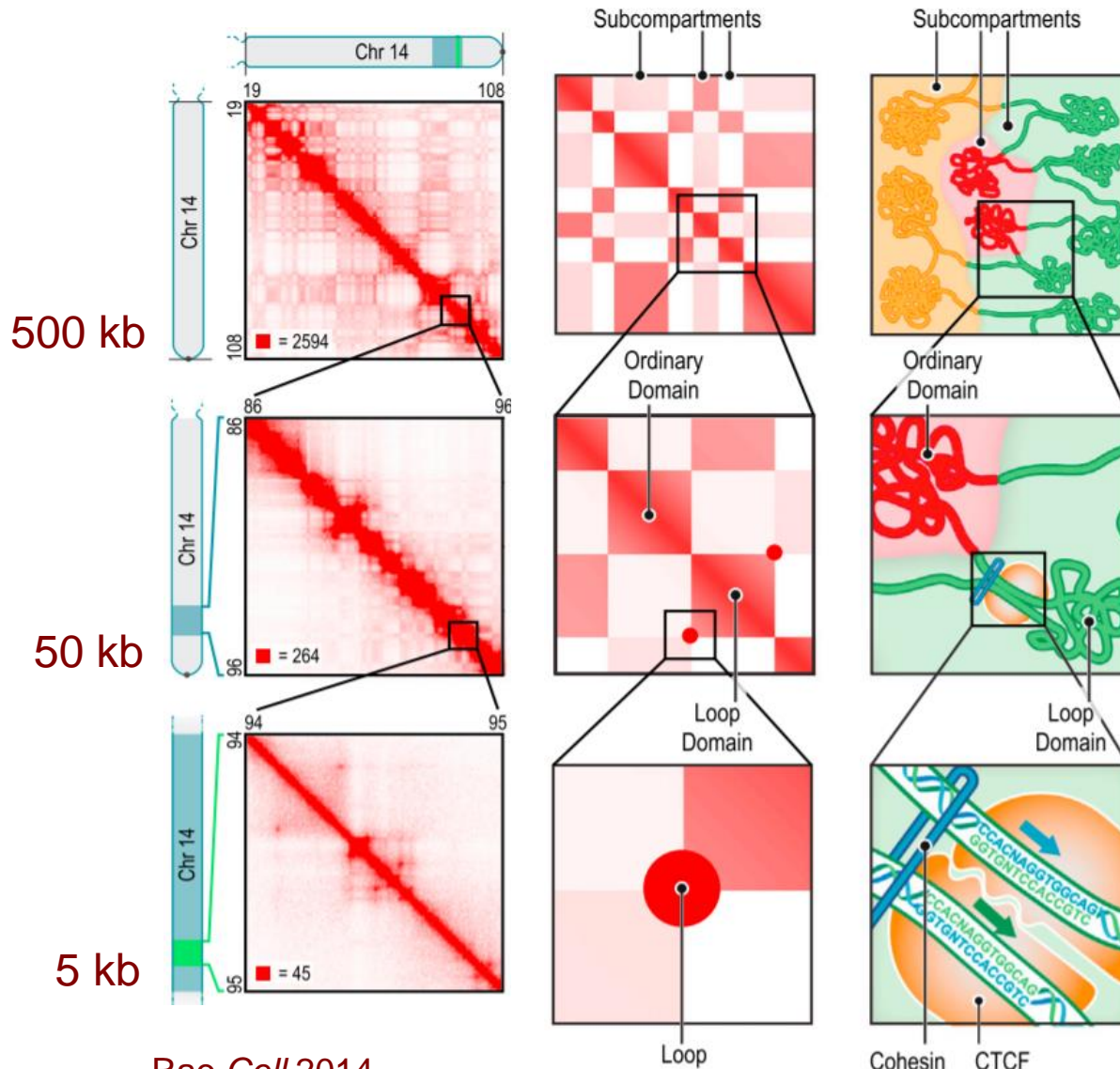
# 3d organization of chromatin

- Algorithms to predict long range enhancer-promoter interactions
- Or measure with chromosome conformation capture (3C, Hi-C, etc.)





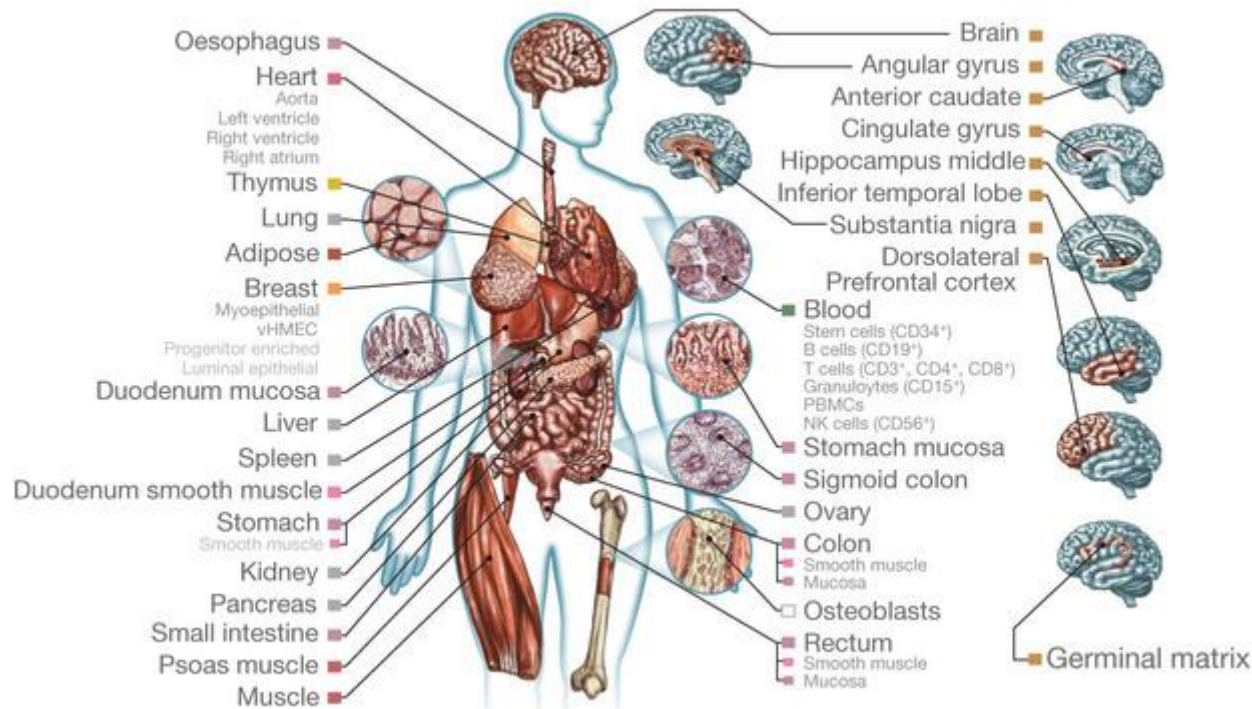
# 3d organization of chromatin



- Hi-C produces 2d chromatin contact maps
- Learn domains, enhancer-promoter interactions

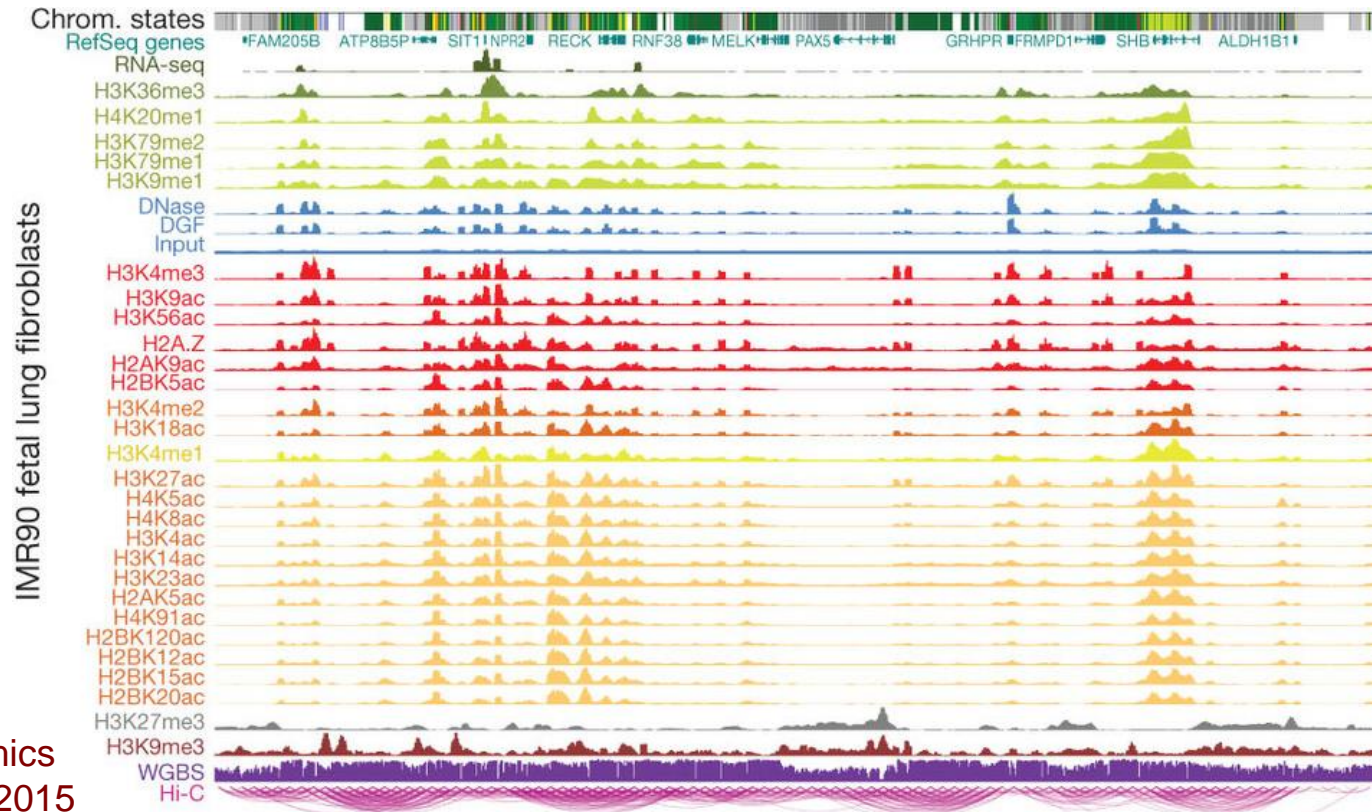
# Large-scale epigenetic maps

- Epigenomes are condition-specific
- Roadmap Epigenomics Consortium and ENCODE surveyed over 100 types of cells and tissues



# Genome annotation

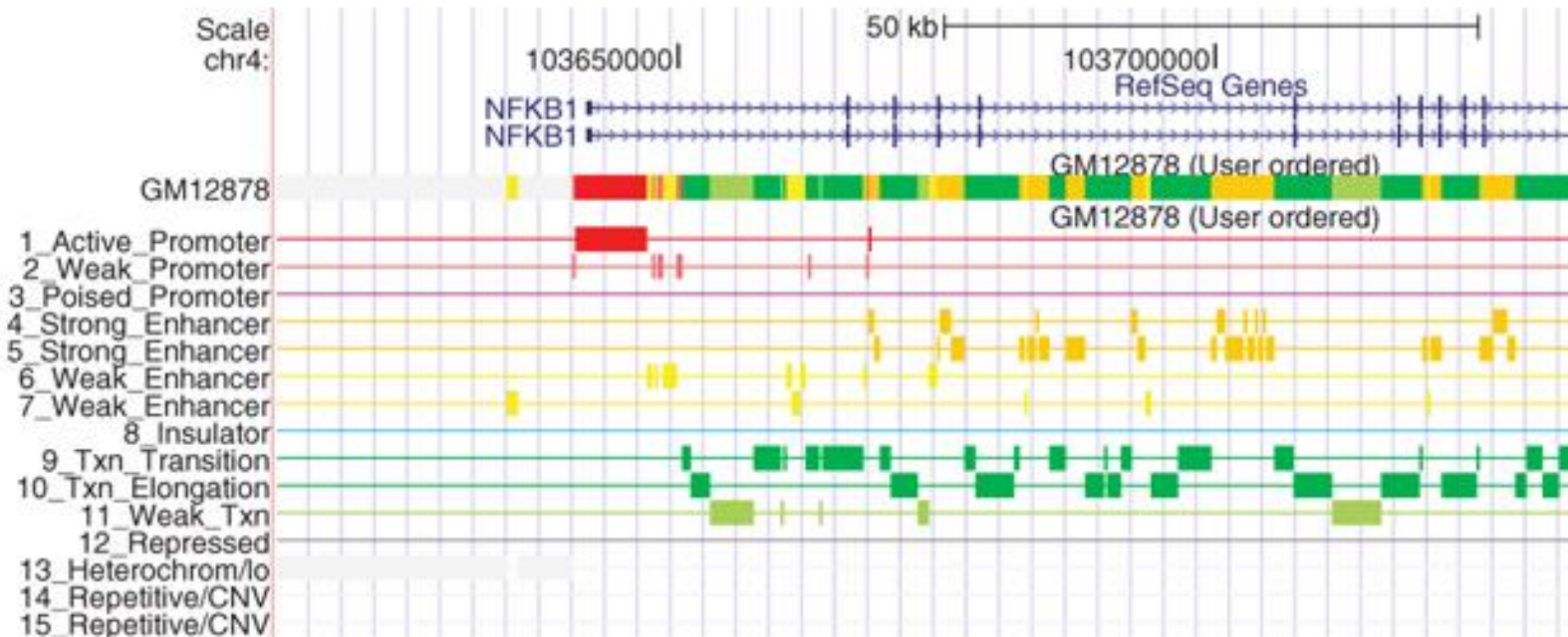
- Combinations of epigenetic signals can predict functional state
  - ChromHMM: Hidden Markov model
  - Segway: Dynamic Bayesian network





# Genome annotation

- States are more interpretable than raw data



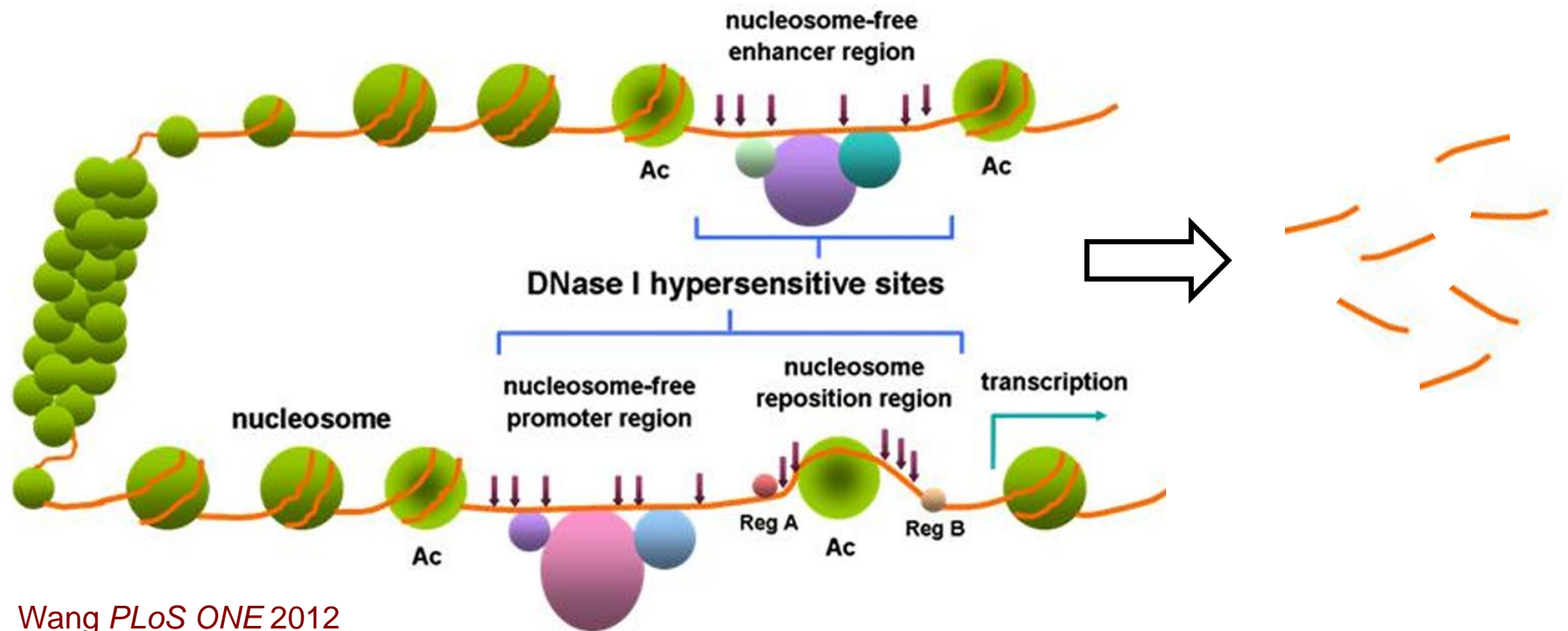
Ernst and Kellis *Nature Methods* 2012



# Predicting TF binding with DNase-Seq

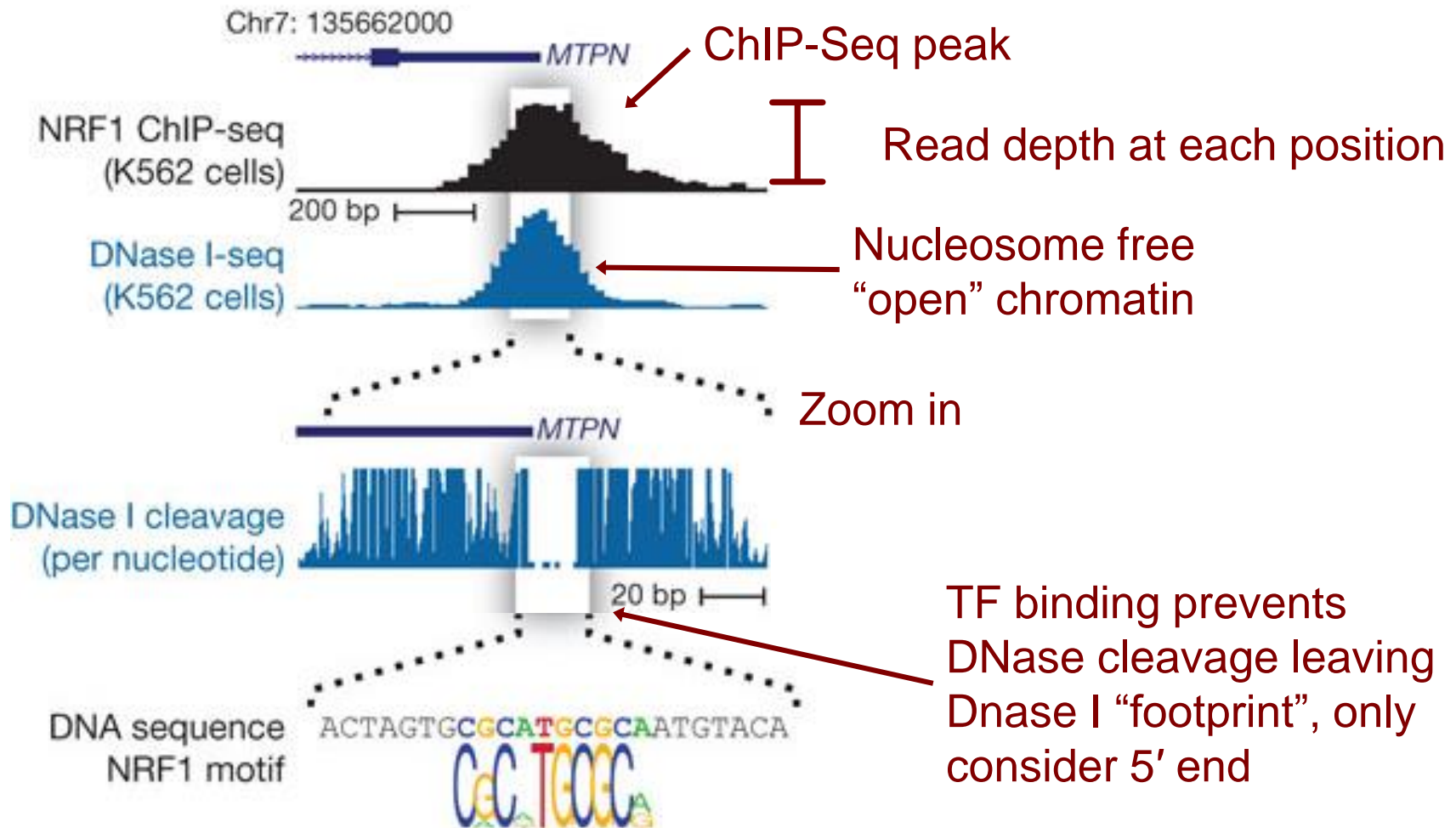
# DNase I hypersensitive sites

- Arrows indicate DNase I cleavage sites
- Obtain short reads that we map to the genome



# DNase I footprints

- Distribution of mapped reads is informative of open chromatin and specific TF binding sites

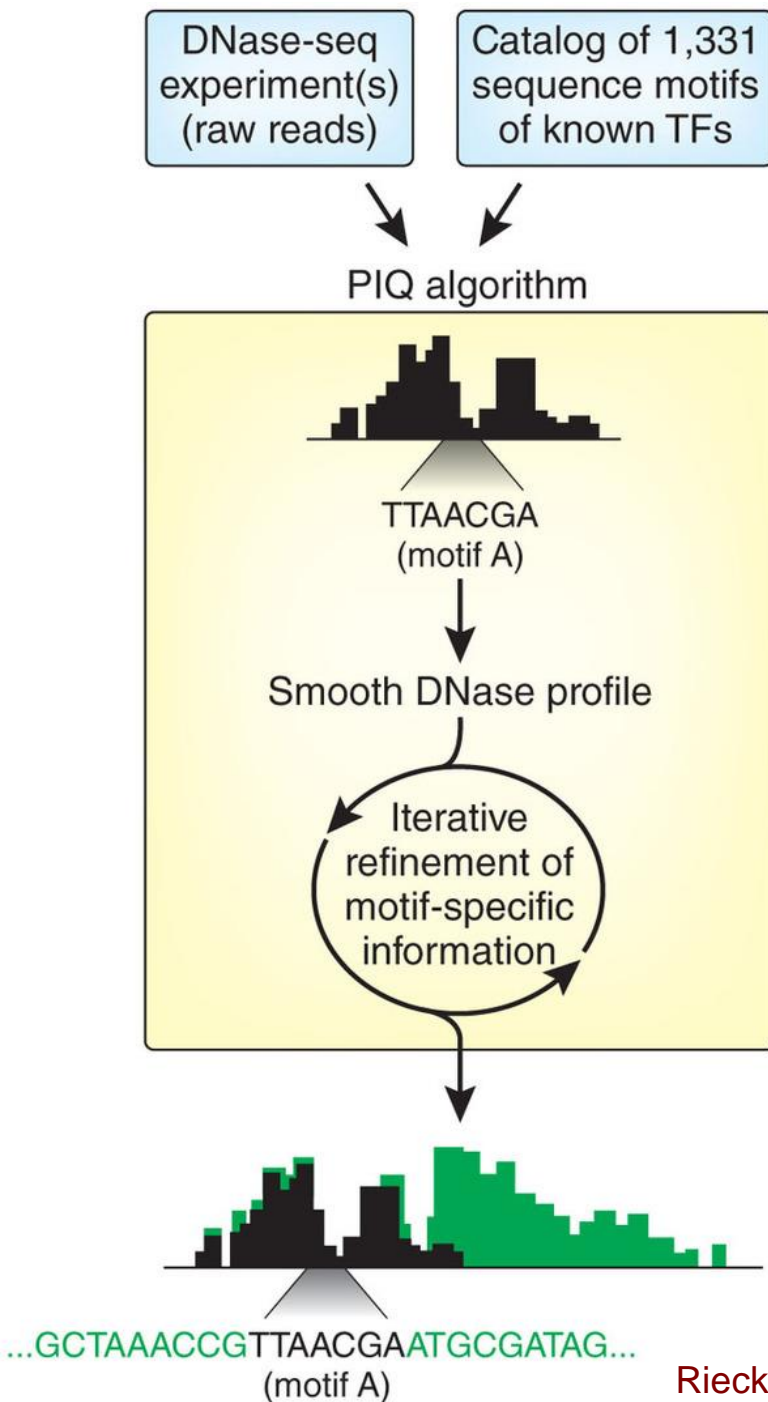


# DNase I footprints to TF binding predictions

- DNase footprints suggest that **some** TF binds that location
- We want to know **which** TF binds that location
- Two ideas:
  - Search for DNase footprint patterns, then match TF motifs
  - Search for motif matches in genome, then model proximal DNase-Seq reads

← We'll consider this approach

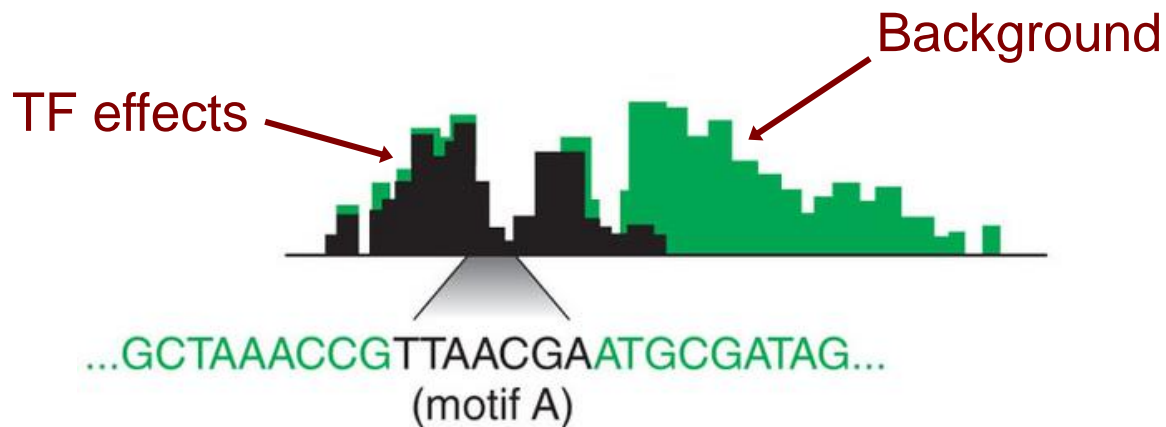
# Protein Interaction Quantification (PIQ)



- Sherwood et al. *Nature Biotechnology* 2014
- **Given:** TF motifs and DNase-Seq reads
- **Do:** Predict binding sites of each TF

# PIQ main idea

- With no TF binding, DNase-Seq reads come from some background distribution
- TF binding changes read density in a *TF-specific* way

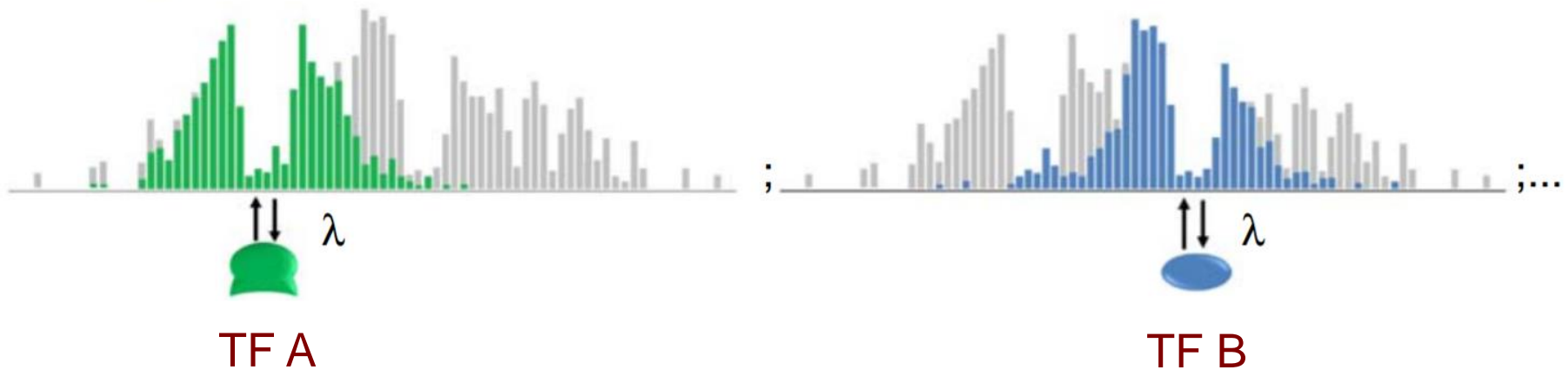


# PIQ main idea

- Shape of DNase peak and footprint depend on the TF

TF binding estimation

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Sherwood *Nature Biotechnology* 2014

# PIQ features

- We'll discuss
  - Modeling the DNase-Seq background distribution
  - How TF binding impacts that distribution
  - Priors on TF binding
- We'll skip
  - Modeling multiple replicates or conditions, cross-experiment and cross-strand effects
  - Expectation propagation
  - TF hierarchy: pioneers, settlers, migrants



# Algorithm preview

- Identify candidate binding sites with PWMs
- Build a probabilistic model of the DNase-Seq reads
- Estimate TF binding effects
- Estimate which candidate binding sites are bound
- Predict pioneer, settler, and migrant TFs

# DNase-Seq background

- Each replicate is noisy, don't want to over-interpret this noise
  - Only counting density of 5' ends of reads
- Manage two competing objectives
  - Smooth some of the noise
  - Don't destroy base pair resolution signal

# Gaussian processes

- Can model and smooth sequential data
- Bayesian approach
- [Jupyter notebook demonstration](#)

# TF DNase profile

- Adjust the log-read rate by a TF-specific effect at binding sites

$$\hat{\mu}_l = \mu_i + \begin{cases} \beta_{i-j,l} & |y_m - j| \leq W \text{ and } I_m = 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

DNase log-read rate adjusted for binding of factor  $l$  (points to  $\hat{\mu}_l$ )  
 DNase log-read rate at position  $i$  from Gaussian process (points to  $\mu_i$ )  
 DNase profile for factor  $l$  (points to  $\beta_{i-j,l}$ )  
 Location of binding site  $m$  (points to  $y_m$ )  
 Window size (points to  $W$ )  
 Whether site  $m$  is bound (points to  $I_m = 1$ )

# TF DNase profile

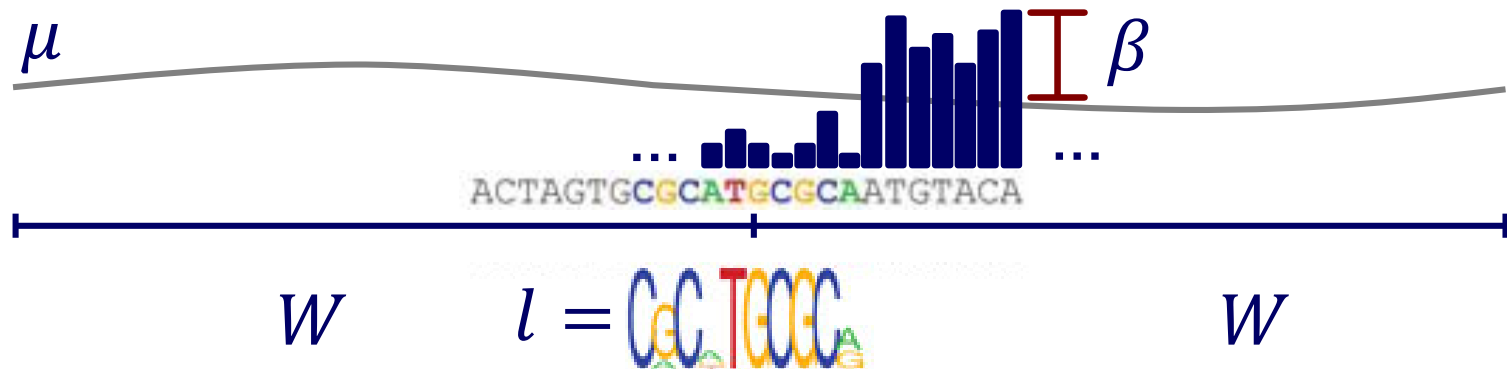
- DNase profiles represented as a vector for each TF

$$\hat{\mu}_l = \mu_i + \begin{cases} \beta_{i-j,l} & |y_m - j| \leq W \text{ and } I_m = 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

DNase profile  
for factor  $l$

Can't be too far apart

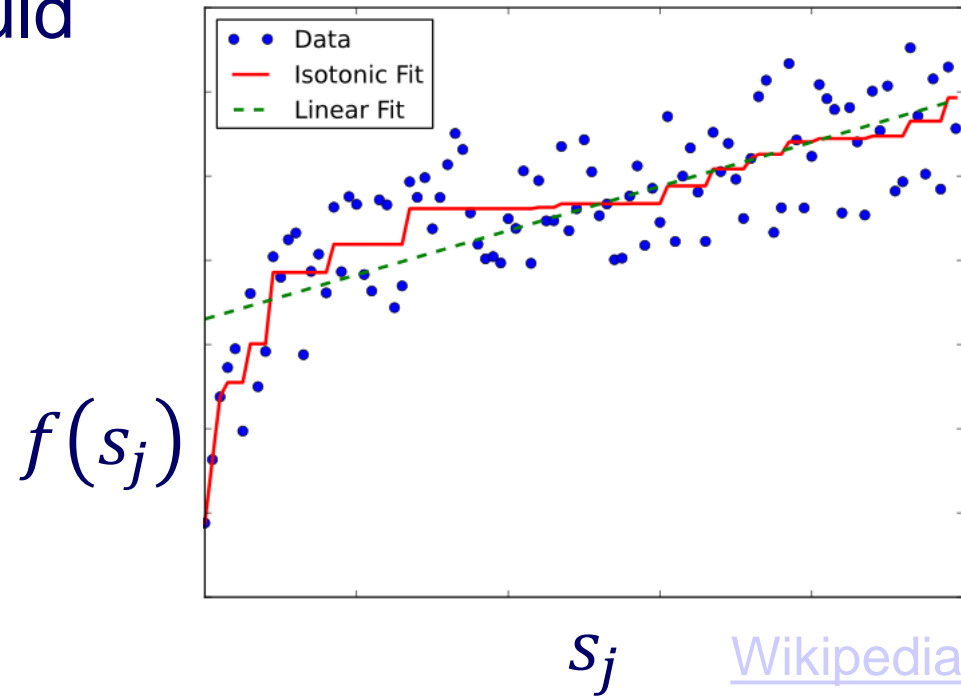
$y_m$   $i$



# Priors on TF binding

- TF binding event  $I_j$  should be more likely when
  - motif score  $s_j$  is high
  - DNase counts  $c_j$  are high
- Isotonic (monotonic) regression

Example only, not realistic data



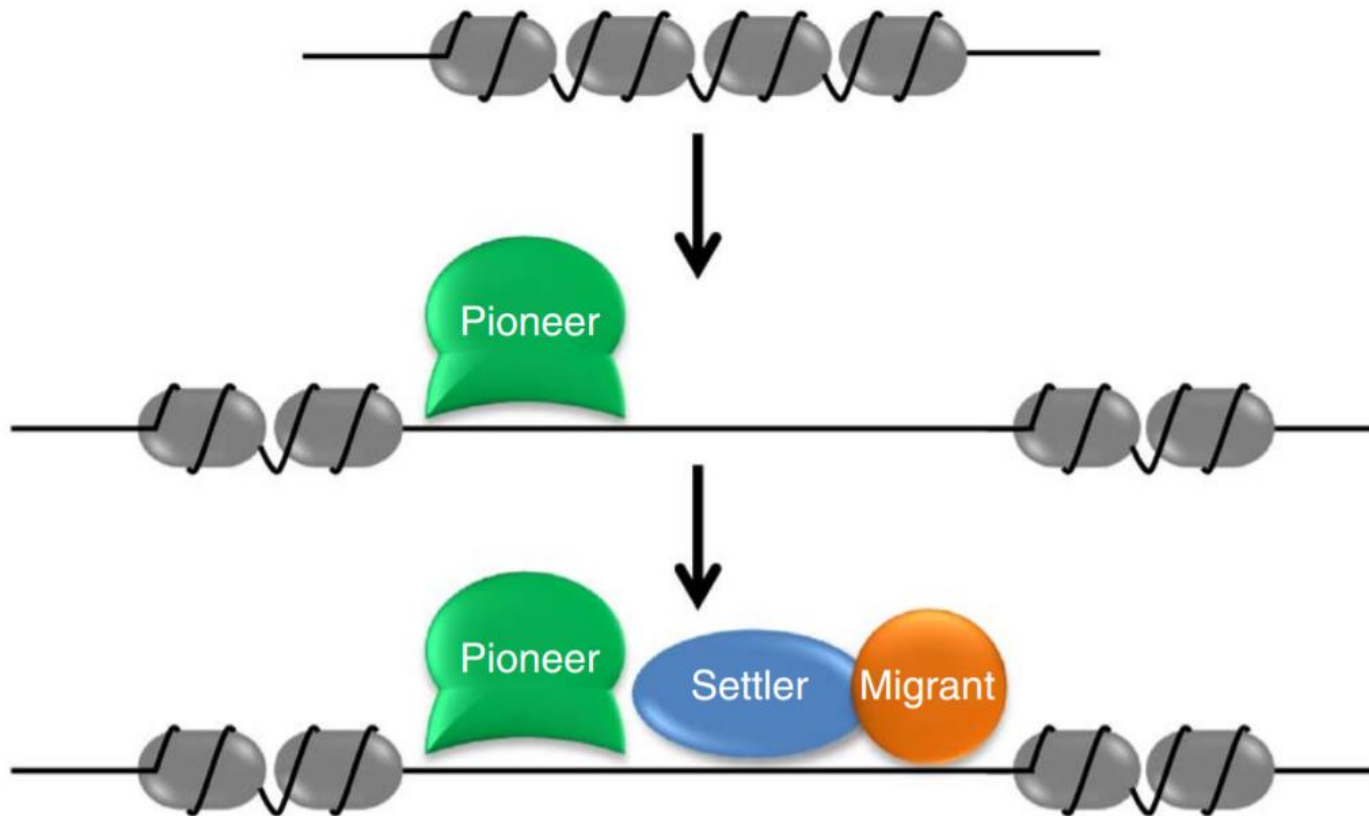
$$\log(P(I_j = 1)) = f(s_j) + g(c_j)$$

# Full algorithm

- **Given:** TF motifs and DNase-Seq reads
- **Do:** Predict binding sites of each TF
- Identify candidate binding sites with PWMs
- Fit Gaussian process parameters for background
- Estimate TF binding effects  $\beta_{i-j,l}$
- Iterate until parameters converge
  - Estimate Gaussian process posterior with expectation propagation
  - Estimate expectation of which candidate binding sites are bound
  - Update monotonic regression functions for binding priors

# TF binding hierarchy

- Pioneer, settler, and migrant TFs



Sherwood *Nature Biotechnology* 2014



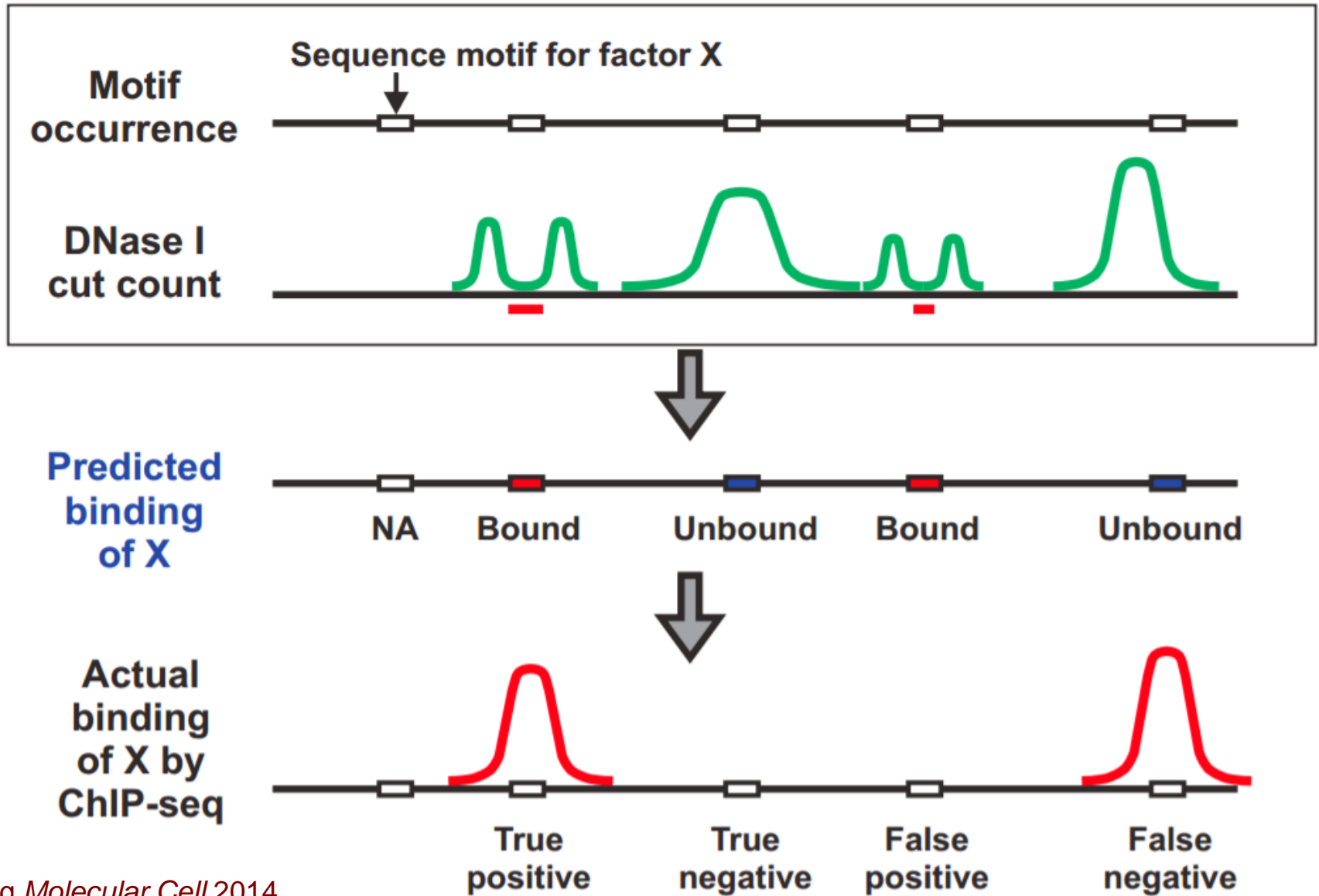
# Evaluation: confusion matrix

- Compare predictions to actual ground truth (gold standard)

		Predicted	
		+	-
Actual	+ ●	TP	FN Type II error
	- ●	FP Type I error	TN

*Lever Nature Methods 2016*

# Evaluation: ChIP-Seq gold standard



# Evaluation: ROC curve

- Calculate receiver operating characteristic curve (ROC)
- True Positive Rate versus False Positive Rate
- Summarize with area under ROC curve (AUC ROC)

$$TPR = \frac{TP}{P} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

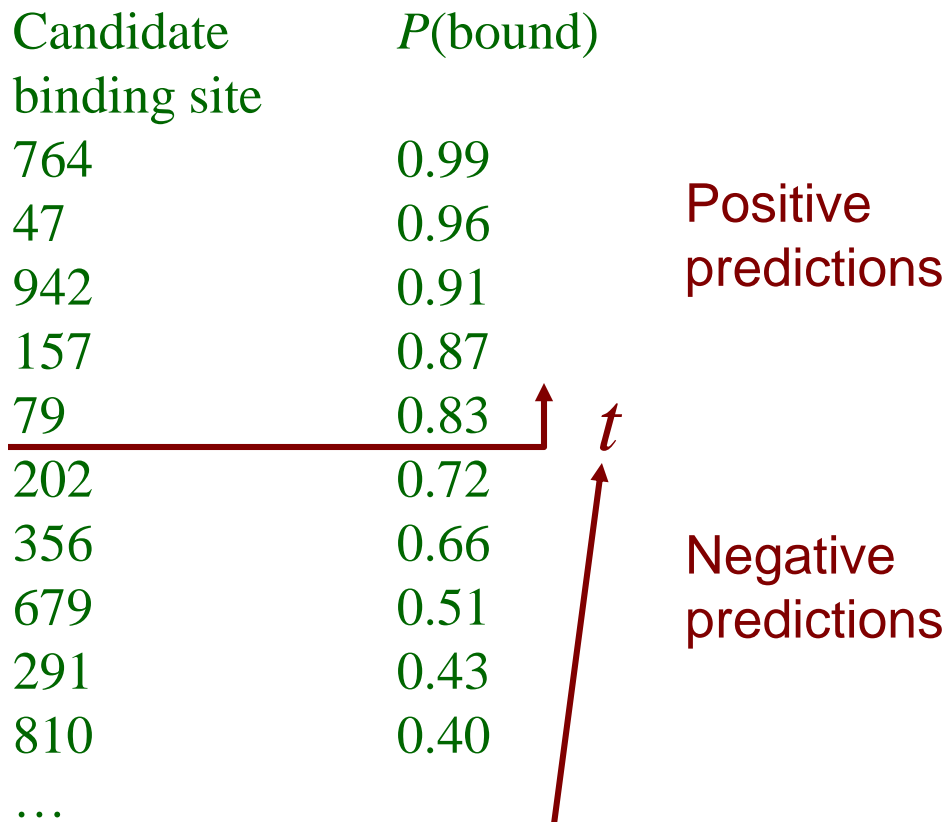
$$FPR = \frac{FP}{N} = \frac{FP}{FP + TN}$$

Includes true negatives

Reason to prefer precision-recall for class imbalanced data

# Evaluation: ROC curve

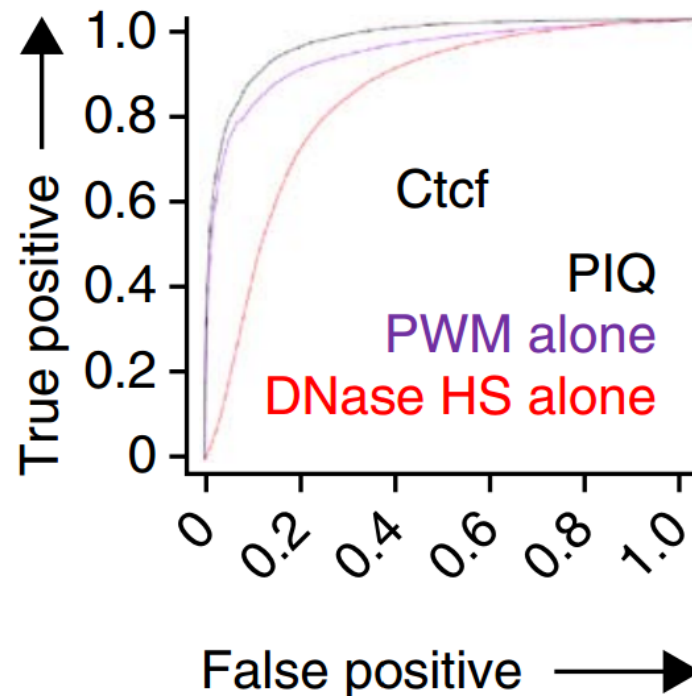
- TPR and FPR are defined for a **set** of positive predictions
- Need to threshold continuous predictions
- Rank predictions
- ROC curve assesses all thresholds



Calculate TPR and FPR at all thresholds  $t$

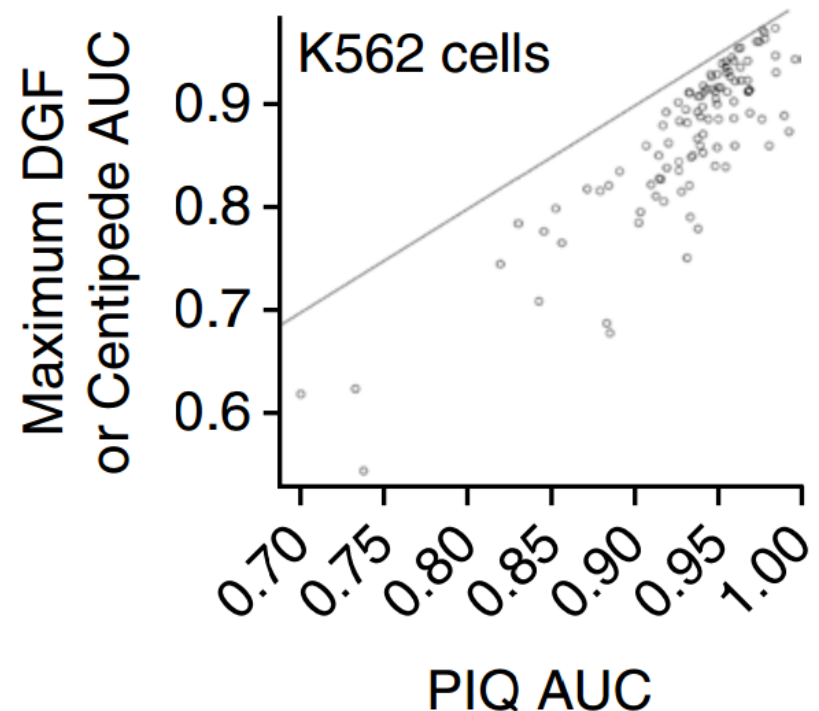
# PIQ ROC curve for mouse Ctcf

- Compare predictions to ChIP-Seq
- Full PIQ model improves upon motifs or DNase alone



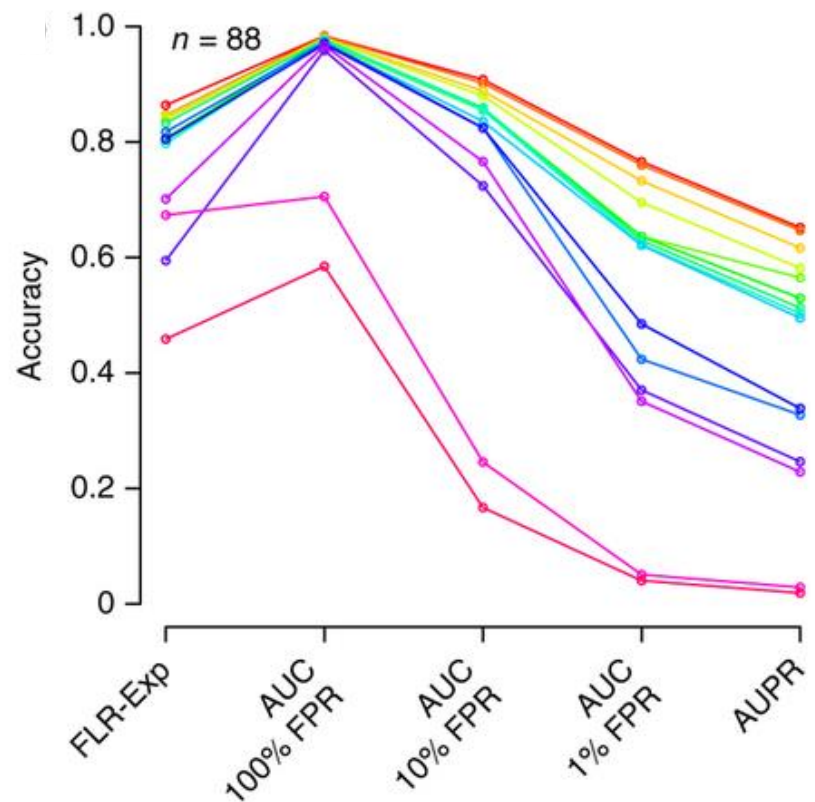
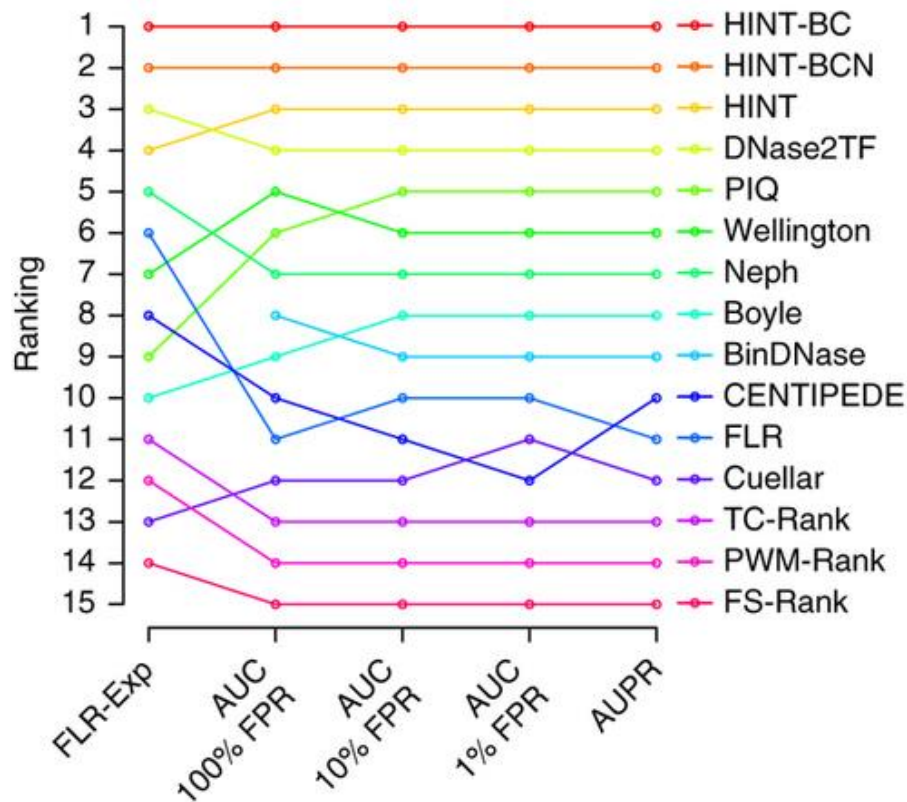
# PIQ evaluation

- Compare to two standard methods
  - 303 ChIP-Seq experiments in K562 cells
  - Centipede, digital genomic footprinting
- Compare AUC ROC
  - PIQ has very high AUC
  - Mean 0.93
  - Corresponds to recovering median of 50% of binding sites

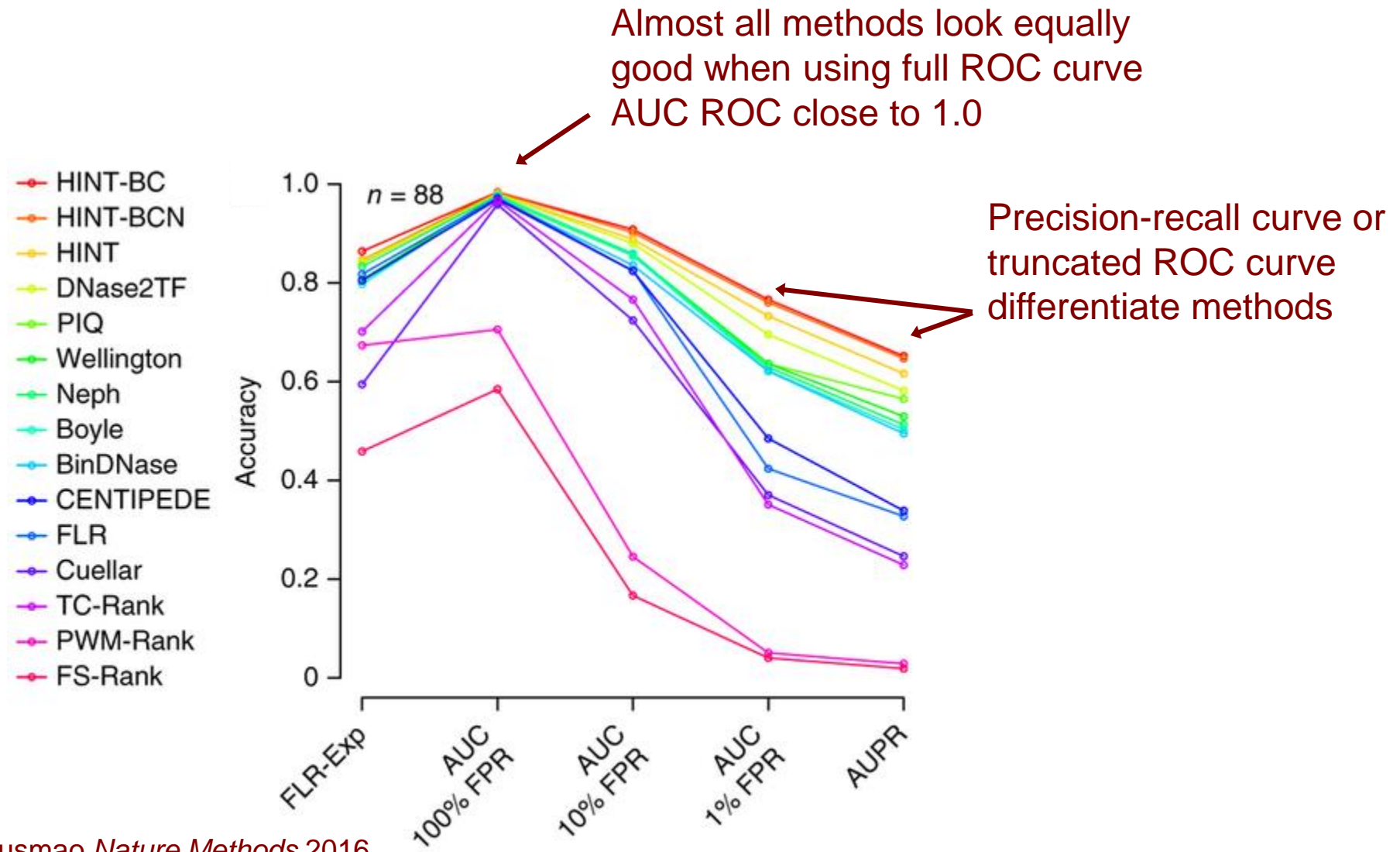


# DNase-Seq benchmarking

- PIQ among top methods in large scale DNase benchmarking study
- HMM-based model HINT was top performer



# Downside of AUC ROC for genome-wide evaluations





# PIQ summary

- Smooth noisy DNase-Seq data without imposing too much structure
- Combine DNase-Seq and motifs to predict condition-specific binding sites
- Supports replicates and multiple related conditions (e.g. time series)